

son's better innovations and separates *Yucca* and *Agave* into different orders; this disregards cytological and anatomical evidence that they are fairly closely related.

Also debatable, but admittedly a matter of opinion, is the consistency of treatment in delimitation of groups. If a "foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds," still one expects a reasonable uniformity of circumscription. Thus Jones on the one hand accepts the dissolution of the Nymphaeaceae into three families (as Li has unconvincingly proposed) and maintains Menyanthaceae distinct from Gentianaceae, but on the other hand includes the Monotropaceae and Pirolaceae within the Ericaceae. The Saxifragaceae are split up à la Hutchinson into a number of families, but the Taxaceae are included in the same order with the Pinaceae. In general, Jones has tended to split supraspecific taxa rather finely; but here he at least has a lot of distinguished company.

The author implies in the introduction that the taxonomic treatments have been brought up to date by consulting the latest monographs and revisions. It is surprising, therefore, to find no reference to Haucke's important work on *Equisetum* subg. *Hippochaete*. The authorities cited for the two species of *Poinsettia* are incorrect. The bitterweed is listed as *Helenium tenuifolium* Nutt., although the correct name was shown in 1957 to be *H. amarum* (Raf.) Rock. However, it does appear that on the whole the nomenclature of the book is reliable.

Let it appear that I am being too captious, it ought to be pointed out that the objections listed above do not seriously detract from the utility of the book. The author (p. 2) specifically states that "the main objective of this work is . . . to afford a ready means of identification of the approximately 2400 species of flowering plants and ferns growing without cultivation in Illinois." It is only fair, therefore, to judge the book primarily by this standard. The physical lay-out of the volume is attractive, and the contents are logically arranged. The difficulty to the user may come as a consequence of the telegraphic style. As in previous editions, there are no separate descriptions of the taxa; the information is all presented in synoptic form in the leads of the keys. This works rather well when a species is being keyed down within a genus, since each species usually has a reasonably detailed diagnosis in the key. However, the characteristics of genera and families often have to be reconstructed from successive lines in a key, and this may give trouble to those (i.e., most of us!) who have short memories. For a common plant such as *Cichorium intybus*, for example, there is no description on the page where it is listed; and even in the key there is no indication of the characteristics of leaves (except that they are probably alternate), general habit, or involucre. In practice, such brevity will not seriously inconvenience the professional taxonomist or experienced amateur, who will in fact find identifications expedited by the uncluttered format. However, many beginning students in plant taxonomy may run into serious problems and need some supplementary reference with full descriptions. Perhaps part of the difficulty is that the book is mistitled; it should not be called *Flora of Illinois* but perhaps rather "Keys for Identification of the Flora of Illinois."

Judged as a manual of keys for ready identification, Jones' "flora" stands up well indeed. Perhaps, having seen that a little modernity can be a dangerous thing, he will in the next edition abandon the capriciously restyled sequence of families in the present book and either return to the hackneyed but convenient Engler and Prantl system or else take the trouble to carefully modify some new system to the needs of the Illinoian flora.—GRADY L. WEBSTER, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

Flora of Our Sierran National Parks. By SAMUEL J. PUSATERI. 170 pp., 177 line drawings, 26 black & white photos, 11 plates (66 color photos). Carl & Irving Printers, Tulare, California, 1963. Available from the author at Red Bud Acres, Three Rivers, California. \$3.75, paper-back; \$4.75 cloth.

The aim of Pusateri in presenting this book on the plants of a portion of the Sierra Nevada of California is "to bridge the gap which exists between the many

publications covering the more common species of the region and the advanced texts which are difficult to use for the person without considerable training in botany." The area covered is Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as well as Yosemite National Park.

Ferns, grasses, sedges, rushes, and many other plants are omitted. The inclusion of taxa from beyond the limits of the parks is confusing as ranges of distribution are ignored. Mention of some species (*Adenostoma sparsifolium*, *Chamaesaracha nana*, *Eschscholzia elegans*, *Oxytheca perfoliata*, *Pedicularis densiflora*, *Penstemon centranthifolius*) which must be excessively rare or nonexistent in the region covered, should have been documented with herbarium vouchers. *Anisocoma acaulis*, normally expected east of the Sierra and in Kern Valley to the south, is said to occur along the western approaches to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

The sequence of families follows no known order and many plants (*Aesculus*, *Cornus nuttallii*, *Dicentra*, *Eriogonum*, *Eschscholzia*, *Iris*, *Kelloggia*, *Mahonia*, *Platystemon*) cannot be identified because of ambiguities in the keys. Some other species are keyed but not described or described but not keyed. Pusateri has relied upon Jepson's *A Manual of the Flowering Plants of California* (1925) "as the final authority for most of the scientific names . . ."

The black and white photos scattered through the text are excellent. The species shown in 21 of the 66 color photos also are represented by line drawings even though common plants (corn lily, chinquapin, poison oak, mountain misery, cow parsnip, arrowleaf groundsel (arrowhead butterweed), common bracken, staghorn lichen) are not illustrated. About 38 per cent of the species included are illustrated and these illustrations probably will be helpful to those who have no knowledge of plants since almost nothing else is available of local coverage for the Sequoia and Kings region.—WALLACE R. ERNST, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

NOTES AND NEWS

A NEW LOCALITY FOR *ASPLENIUM VESPERTINUM*.—The fern *Asplenium vespertinum* Maxon has been reported for the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Bernardino Mountains, and from San Rafael, Baja California. Its appearance in the more northerly Santa Monica Mountains may indicate that it is more widespread than formerly suspected. A very small single colony was found on a rock outcropping at Sherwood Lake, Ventura County, California, in March, 1963 under an overhanging sandstone rock ledge with a northern exposure (*Joe s.n.*, Oct. 20, 1963, DS, LA). The ferns, which were but a few inches tall, were growing in moist rather silty soil and protected in front with clumps of *Dryopteris arguta*. *Adiantum jordanii*, *Dryopteris arguta*, and *Pityrogramma triangularis* were abundant in the vicinity. Less common were *Cheilanthes californica* and *Polypodium californicum*.—BARBARA JOE, University of California, Los Angeles, and Los Angeles City College.